nature net

The **Nature***Kenya* Newsletter * www.naturekenya.org * April 06

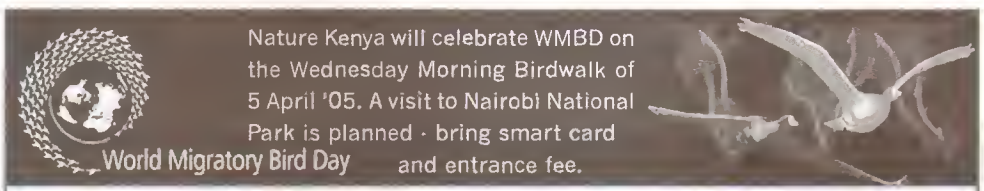
Eagle Odyssey

the struggles of the United Kingdom's largest breeding bird of prey, the White-tailed Eagle

Tues 25 April '06
at the Nature Kenya AGM

'The Eagle Odyssey' has become the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' greatest film success in its long history of wildlife film-making. The Eagle Odyssey won the award for Best Script at Wildscreen 2004, the largest and most prestigious wildlife film festival. More recently still, the film went on to scoop the Grand Prix Best Film award at the world's premier ornithological film festival, held each year at Menigoute in France, and two more awards at the Valvert European Wildlife Film Festival in Belgium (most popular film and Best Story).

Plan to bring and register a friend or relative as a *member!*



World Migratory Bird Day

Nature Kenya will celebrate WMBD on the Wednesday Morning Birdwalk of 5 April '05. A visit to Nairobi National Park is planned - bring smart card and entrance fee.

Also check with the Site Support Group nearest you for WMBD activities

The African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) is launching the first World Migratory Bird Day on the weekend of 8/9 April 2006.

It will be launched with a special event called "WINGS" taking place in Kenya, hosted by future CMS Ambassador Ms Kuki Gallmann in Laikipia.

APRIL AT A GLIMPSE

Sat 8	Tree Walk
Thu 13	Talk on Aquaculture
Fri 14 - Sun 17	Trip to Nguruman
Sun 16	Sunday Birdwalk
Mon 24	Tree Walk
Tue 25	EANHS AGM

Birdwalks every Wednesday Morning
Bird ringing every Thursday Morning

Aquaculture in Kenya

Talk by Mbugua Mwangi
13 April '06, 10:00 a.m.
at the Invertebrate Zoology Training Lab, National Museums
Organised by the Samaki Working Group

Editorial Team
Editor Catherine Ngarachu
Evening Skies Fleur Ng'weno
Naturalist's Corner Dino Martins

Annual General Meeting

of the East Africa Natural History Society

Tuesday 25 April 06 at 4:00 p.m.

at the Louis Leakey Hall, National Museums, Nairobi

Agenda

- Minutes of the 95th AGM
- Matters arising
- Chairman's Report
- Hon. Treasurer's Report
- Appointment of Auditor
- Committees & Projects Report
- Nature Uganda Report
- Any other business
- Election of Executive Committee and Trustees

followed by award winning film

Eagle Odyssey

with kind permission from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK)

& Bar-be-que

Stay a while longer and enjoy the bar-be-que & the cash bar

Plan to bring and register a friend or relative as a *member!* and to buy books, honey and other items that will be available

NATURE KENYA, P. O. Box 44486, 00100 GPO Nairobi Tel: 3749957 / 3746090 Fax: 3741049 E-mail: office@naturekenya.org

AVIAN FLU

action

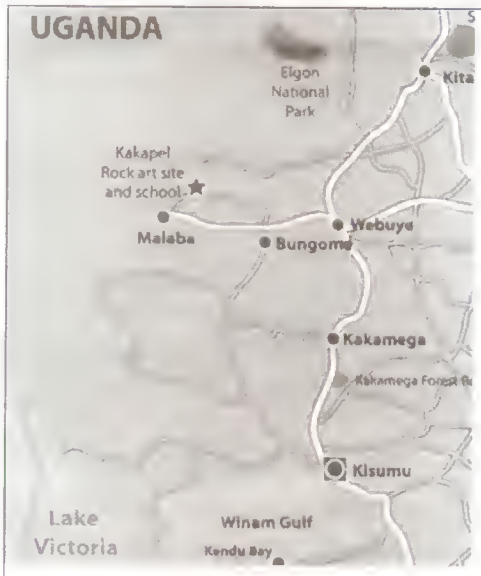
natural history

As we go to press, no outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza or 'bird flu' had been reported in Kenya. Neither had the virus been recorded in wild birds in Africa. However, the threat is still very real and precautions should be taken. H5N1 avian influenza is a disease of chickens and other domestic poultry, with a high mortality rate. It also affects wild birds and even people.

We wish to congratulate the National Task Force on Avian Flu on their recent media announcements giving comprehensive information to the public.

To report unusual deaths of wild or domestic birds, National Task Force hotlines as advertised are
0722 726682 or
0726 600499 or
0722 331548 or
020 631639 or
020 2728292

MORE updates!



Map on how to get to Kakapel is from 'The Rock Art of Kakapel' produced by the Trust for African Rock Art (TARA). This guide and others - 'The Rock Art and other attractions of Suba District' and 'Rock Art of East Africa' are available from the Nature Kenya office @ 150/- each.

Kakapel National Monument opens to the public

The National Museums of Kenya opened Kenya's first rock art Monument in January '06.

Kakapel is a large granite outcrop in western Kenya in the Chelelemuk Hills overlooking Kakapel village. To reach Kakapel, which is only a few kilometres from the Uganda border, take the Malaba road from Bungoma and drive west for 20km to a turnoff on the right (north) side of the road. Take this turnoff and drive north for 7km on an all-weather murram road. The route is well signposted.

Sagana Fish Farms

Fri 12 May '06

Bring a packed lunch and meet at the Nairabi Museum car park at 8:00 a.m. Book at Nature Kenya with 100/- (Organised by Samaki Working Group)

Walking at Kigio Wildlife Conservancy

Sat 13 May '06

At this expansive area near Naivasha, walking is recommended and the guides will assist you identify animal tracks and some of the 150 different birds recorded at Kigio. Meet at the Nairobi Museum car park at 7:30 a.m. Bring with you a picnic lunch and drinking water. Book at Nature Kenya with 500/- per person. Transport is by car pool.

Pay your subscriptions by Direct Debit!

Nature Kenya is now able to accept Direct Debit payments.

A Direct Debit is an instruction from a customer (you) to their bank, authorising an organisation (i.e. Nature Kenya) to collect an amount from their account, at regular specified intervals (i.e. annually).

It is a convenient method of making a regular payment saving you time and effort.

To receive a Direct Debit authorizing form, please write to Nature Kenya or send a note to office@naturekenya.org

natural history publications

available at the Nature Kenya membership and sales office

Hot off the press! A Checklist of the Birds of Kakamega Forest @ 200/- (to members)

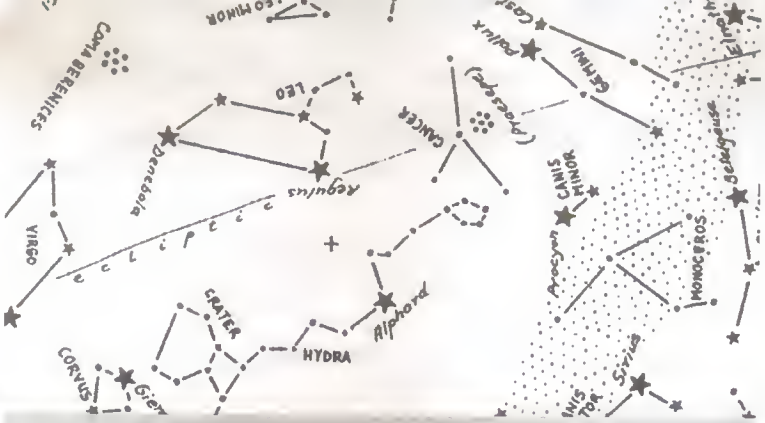
Field Guide to Acacias of East Africa
by Najma Dharani
@ 2200/-
A comprehensive field guide to all 62 of the acacia tree species occurring in East Africa. Each species account features a distribution map, a detailed description of all parts of the tree, its uses, and its application in traditional medicine. Species entries are accompanied by full-colour photographs of the whole tree, its bark, flowers, pods, thorns and leaves. Seasonal charts showing when the tree is in flower, and when leaves and pods appear are also included.

Important Bird Areas of Tanzania
by Neil and Elizabeth Baker
@ 2200/-
Describes 80 sites in Tanzania that meet the criteria for Important Bird Areas (IBAs). An important source of information for environmental planners and policy makers, and for birdwatchers wanting to locate Tanzania's special birds.

The Pollination of East African Succulent Plants
by Leonard E. Newton
@ 150/-
This booklet explains the life cycles of plants and their interactions with fauna in the ecosystem. It includes practical hints on how to carry out artificial pollination.

T-shirts & Polo shirts
by the Trust for African Rock Art
@ 850/- & 950/-

TARA is dedicated to the conservation of Africa's prehistoric rock art, both paintings and engravings. Visit their website www.africanrockart.org for information on their activities



EVENING SKY

Ian MacKay & Fleur Ng'weno

Moon, April 2006

5 April First Quarter; 13 April Full Moon; 21 April Last Quarter; 27 April New Moon.

Planets

Two planets, Mars and Saturn, are high in the evening sky. Use the moon as a guide to find them. Mars is south of the moon on April 3rd, and Saturn is near the moon on April 7, 2006. Since planets only reflect the light of the sun, they do not sparkle like the stars.

The planets Venus, Jupiter and Mercury are in the morning sky before dawn. You can't miss brilliant Venus in the east above the sunrise. Bright, golden Jupiter is high in the west, north of the moon on April 15. Tiny Mercury is more difficult to find, low in the eastern sky before dawn. From April 21 to 25, Mercury is in the constellation of Cetus, the whale, and south of the moon on the 26th.

Stars

The bright stars Sirius and Canopus, and the constellation of Orion, are dipping towards the west.

Leo the lion is high overhead. Look for a sickle-shaped group of stars forming the head and neck of the resting lion. The lion's back extends towards the east.

Below Leo, in the northeast, is a group of stars called the Plough, or the Big Dipper, or the Great Bear. Four stars form the corners of a box shape. A line of three bright stars extends from the box towards the east.

A bright orange light shines low in the northeast: the star Arcturus.

Across the sky, low in the south, the beautiful constellation of the Southern Cross is rising. Three bright stars and a fainter one form the tips of a cross like a Christian cross. On April evenings the cross is tilted to one side, pointing as always to the south. Behind the Southern Cross is the Milky Way.

Bird Hotline

3749957

Spotted Crake, Barred Warbler *Splash, Nairobi/ Mar '06* Wednesday Morning Birdwalk

For more Chris Madden cartoons buy his book "The Beast that ate the Earth" from his website www.chrismadden.org

CLASSIFIEDS

Reach over 1000 members by advertising in Nature Net Rates for Classifieds: • Up to 25 words 250/- • Up to 50 words 500/- Ads • @ 1750/- • with image +500/-

PLANT INDIGENOUS TREES AND SHRUBS

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FANTASTIC SELECTION OF OVER 90 SPECIES TREES AND SHRUBS, 1-2M IN LARGE POLYPOTS.

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CONTACT FOR DIRECTIONS, ADVICE & TREE LIST:
CROPWATCH LTD TREE NURSERY

JOANNA TRENCH 0733 603839
reforest@africaonline.co.ke
BRIAN WILLIAMS 0733 923990
bvwilliams@swiftkenya.com
CAROLE HEMMINGS 0733 747865
carole@access350.co.ke

Increase Biodiversity Within Your Garden

Grow Indigenous Plants and Trees

Over 100 species of plants and trees (& Roses) are available at the Athi Nursery. A list with names and prices can be supplied *Contact* Celia Hardy 0722 523023
celia@rosesgalore.co.ke
Or Barry Cameron 0722 749596
barry@rosesgalore.co.ke

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Job Opportunity
ASSETS Eco-Bursary Fundraiser

The Arabuko-Sokoke Schools and Eco-tourism Scheme (ASSETS) is a community Eco-scholarship fund that helps children around Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and Mida Creek

Purpose

To promote and raise funds for ASSETS primarily from Eco-tourism but also from other sources

Essential

• Skilled and experienced in proposal writing, management and administration
• Has a comprehensive range of computer skills especially being very familiar with spread sheets, databases
• Willing to take responsibility, to be capable of initiating work and be versatile in approach to a varied and often demanding work load
• Fluent in English and preferably Swahili as well.
• Understands the cross-cultural context in which the work will be conducted (i.e. understanding of both African and Western cultures and expectations)
• Enjoys and has a good sense for hospitality
•Good communication skills

Contacts

Send application and CV to A Rocha, Box 383, Watamu 80202 or email stanley.baya@arocha.org by 15 April '06

Up & about

DECLARATION

Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsoever in respect of negligence of any of its staff, volunteers or members organising the outings/trips or for any loss, injury, death or damage to property.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. *Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Ksh 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.*

TREE WALKS

Guided tree walks in the Arboretum on the second Saturday and last Monday, i.e. **8** and **24 April'06** from 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Arboretum gate. *Those who are not members of FONA or Nature Kenya pay Ksh 100/- fee on arrival at the gate.*

SUNDAY BIRDWATCH

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, **i.e. 16 April '06.** The members decide where to go. Bring lunch

BIRD RINGING

Meet at the Museums' Nairobi Botanic Garden, at 7:00 a.m. every Thursday.

SAMAKI DAYS *New!!

Guided fish excursions on the first Thursday, i.e. **6 April '06** from 9:00 a.m - 12:30 p.m. Meet at the Nairobi Museum car park. *Pay Ksh 50/- per person on arrival*

KINANGOP GUEST HOUSE

Perched on the Kinangop Plateau with incredible views across the Rift Valley, the farm combines tussock-grass pasture, indigenous forest, and attractive gardens. The guesthouse is comfortable and fully furnished. Visitors can enjoy hikes and walks on the farm or go further afield with local guides.

For more information, brochure and non-member rates please contact Nature Kenya. Guest House rates: Day visit 350/-

MEMBER nos	Overnight	Weekend
1 to 2 pax	4000/-	6500/-
3 pax	4,900/-	7,400/-
4 pax	5,800/-	8,300/-

20% OFF ACCOMMODATION AT THE DRIFTWOOD

On presentation of your membership card, you can get this discount off accommodation (if paying by cash or cheque) at the Driftwood Beachclub. This is a charming beachfront property with great food and service. Contact: <gm@driftwoodclub.com or tel 042 20155

Ngong Road Forest Walks

Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary Trust nature walks held the first and third Saturdays of the month i.e. **1 & 15 April '06, at 9:00 a.m.** Meet at the stairs leading to the Restaurant at the Racecourse. Call Anthony Chalo to confirm on 575207 or 0733 712406.

Lake Victoria Sunset Birders (Kisumu)

The Lake Victoria Sunset Birders organise bird walks at sites in and around Kisumu every Friday of the month. For further details call 057 42952 or 0734 994938 or email lakevictoriasunsetbirders@yahoo.co.uk

Mt Kenya Biodiversity Conservation Group (MKBCG)

The MKBCG organise bird walks to sites around Naro Moru every last Saturday of the month i.e. **29 April '06.**
For more information contact 0722 364904, 0733 937115 or 062 62071 Email: mt_kebio@yahoo.co.uk_

Birding at Kinangop

Friends of Kinangop Plateau organise birdwalks every third Friday of the month i.e. **21 April'06** at 9:00 a.m around Magumu and Njambini areas. To participate contact Bakari Ng'ang'a on 0721 470215

MARURA NAROK BIRDWATCHERS

A community group near Uaso Narok Swamp, Rumuruti, which organises birdwalks every last Saturday *i.e.* **29 April '06.** Call 062 32718 or email olmaisor@africaonline.co.ke

ARABUKO-SOKOKE (COAST)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **1 April '06, at 6:30 a.m.** from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per person. KWS fees now apply (100/- Citizens, 500/- Residents)

FFJ Bird Walk (Coast)

Friends of Fort Jesus birdwalks are held the third Saturday of each month, i.e. **15 April '06.**Please call Marlene Reid on (041) 491 648 to confirm

NatureKenya

Yes! ☐ *Start* ☐ *Renew*
my Nature Kenya membership

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Surname
First Name Ms/Mr/Title
Address
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(**OPTIONAL** - but useful to us in planning)
Occupation
Age Bracket (tick) under 21( ) 21-35( ) 36-50( ) over 50( )
Country of Origin
Would you like us to share your contacts Yes/ NO

For Official Use Only Sub No. Recpt. No.
Mode Due Date Recpt Date

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	Ksh Per Year	Enter Amount
Full	1000	
Sponsor	3000	
Family	1400	
Pensioners	400	
Students (Full time & undergraduate)	400	
Institutional (Libraries, schools, clubs)	1000	
Corporate	10000	
Corporate Plus	20000	
ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS		
Kenya Birds **(tick to receive this free Bird magazine)**		
Journal of E.A. Natural History	1000	
Scopus (Ornithological Journal)	500	
World Birdwatch (the BirdLife International magazine)	1500	
Succulenta East Africa	400	
Friends of Nairobi Arboretum Single - 400/-, Student - 250/-, School or Club - 800/-		
African Bird Club (Student 500/-)	800	
DONATE & ***Help us to do even more!***	5000/Other	
Total		

If you live reside outside of Kenya please refer to www.naturekenya.org